As per the records of the Department, the total number of effective income-tax assessees as on 31st March 1988 is 65,25,164.

Measures to cut down wasteful expenditure

2439. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what measures have been taken by Government during the past six months to cut down wasteful expenditure and how much money has been saved on this account, with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : Central Ministries/Departments have been advissed to eliminate is essential and low priority items of expenditure through a process of prioritisation of their programmes and activities. Ministries have also been advised to effect economy in expenditure in various areas. These include restrictions on travel expenses, entertainment, internal seminars and conferences, publications, purchase of furniture/furnishings fuel consumpton, etc. Effect of these measures will be reflected in the Revised Estimates 1988-89 which will be presented to Parliament alongwith the Budget for 1989-90.

Advanc plan assistance to nationalise Shree niwas Cotton Mills Limited, Bombay and Khandesh Spinning and Weaving Mills Limited

2440. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has submitted a proposal to the Planning Commission for grant of Advance Plan Assistance to nationalise Shreeniwas Cotton Mills Limited, Bombay and Khandesh Spinning and Weaving Mills Limited; and

(b) if so, what action is contemplated in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Exemption from income tax payment for poultry sector

2441. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations regarding exemption from payment of income-tax by the poultry sector; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representations were examined in detail and the Government has not been able to agree to the requests made in this regard.

Investment Allowance scheme for Industries

2442. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced the Investment Allowance Scheme for selected industries in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said Scheme; and

(c) to what extent the industries in the country would be benefited by this Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme of Investment Allowance will be available as an option in place of the existing Investment Deposit Account and the option once exercised by the taxpayer cannot be changed for the next five